(b) and (c) As and when information regarding publication and broadcasting of factually incorrect or distorted stories about great Indian personalities and leaders comes to the notice of Ministry of External Affairs and its Missions abroad, immediate action is taken to rectify the situation.

(d) and (e) A request has been received in the Ministry from Shri H.M. Agrawal, Senior Journalist, Dainik Swatantra Bharat to ban a book on 'Jhansi Ki Rani' written by a person of Indian origin residing in London. His representation has been forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs for taking necessary action.

So far as the Electronic Media (TV Channels) is concerned the Government had constituted a Committee for reviewing the Programme and Advertising Codes (Content Code) prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder, to provide greater specificity in the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 05.03.2008 which is available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in under the heading 'Self Regulation Guidelines 2008'.

Harassment to the media in Assam

3944. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any complaint lodged in regard to harassment to the media/electronic media and more particularly a private channel, "NE NEWS" in Assam; if so, the details thereof and details of action taken thereon; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to give permission or issue necessary licence, etc. to any private channel in Assam and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSHI): (a) A complaint had been received from NE Television which is owned by M/s Positiv Television Pvt. Ltd. *vide* letter dated 19.2.2007 regarding the threats being received by the print and electronic media representatives in the North-East and particularly NE Television. This complaint was referred to Chief Minister of Assam and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 29.3.2007 requesting them to take all possible measures to ensure security of the electronic and print media persons, especially in North East Television. Again a memorandum dated 9.4.2007 was received from Shri Pranab Kumar Gogoi, Dy. Bureau Chief, NE TV and others regarding alleged discriminatory behaviour of district administration to NE TV in Dibrugarh as well as to other media persons in Guwahati. This was referred to Chief Secretary, Government of Assam on 15.6.2007 for taking suitable action in the matter.

In this regard, Press Council of India has also intimated that concerned over threats to media persons in the North East, it constituted an Assessment Committee for Assam whose scope was later enlarged to include Manipur. The Committee took *suo-motu* congnizance of the matter and submitted its report to the Press Council in October, 2007. The Council has issued guidelines/recommendations based on the above report.

(b) The permissions are issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on an all-India basis. The Ministry has received proposals from two Assam-based companies. One is from M/s Brahmaputra Tele-Production Ltd. to uplink a TV channel namely "Channel East" and another is from M/s Positiv Television Pvt. Ltd. to uplink two TV channels namely "Hamar TV" and "HY TV" from India, These proposals are at various stages of scrutiny in the Ministry.